

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-60 (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) A computerized method for trading information related to commercial companies via a network, comprising the steps of:

~~providing for collection~~ collecting of private company information from a first user location through a user interface on a computer system at the first location, the private company information having a confidential data portion, which includes confidential identifying information for a private company that corresponds with the private company information;

~~providing for generation~~ generating of an exchange data ~~portion~~ from the private company information at the first user location, which is characterized by an absence of confidential identifying information for the private company, wherein the act of generating the exchange data includes acts of:

associating classifications to the private company information based on the confidential identifying information;

receiving only the exchange data ~~portion~~ at a central computer system at a central location via a computer network;

defining an exchange data set at the central location on the central computer system, wherein the defined exchange data set comprises information on assets and liabilities of the private company;

updating, by a processor, the exchange data set using the exchange data ~~portion~~; ~~and~~

determining, by a processor, an output data set from the exchange data set;

transmitting the output data set from the central location to a user at the first location via the computer network;

wherein the private company is part of a commercial industry, and the output data set includes statistical averages for the commercial industry; and

wherein the output data set comprises statistical information sufficient to obtain a valuation of the private company, the valuation of the private company including at least an estimated market value of the private company, wherein the estimated market value incorporates evaluation of liabilities and assets of the private company.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the step of receiving only the exchange data ~~portion~~ at a central computer system at a central location includes the step of receiving only the exchange data ~~portion~~ to a central location via a network.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the computer network includes an Internet communication link.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of:
defining one or more groups; and
determining one of more groups associated with the collected information.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising the steps of attaching the determined groups to the exchange data portion.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of:
defining the user as a qualified user;
wherein the act of updating, the exchange data set includes segregating exchange data received from a qualified user from exchange data received from a non qualified user.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, further comprising the step of defining the exchange data set as a qualified user exchange data set.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein transmitting the output data set from the central location to user at the first location is performed via an Internet communication link.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, further comprising ~~providing for storage~~ storing of the output data set at the first location.
70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, further comprising storing the output data set at the central location.
71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of ~~providing for storage~~ storing of the collected information at the first location.
72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of ~~providing for storage~~ storing of the confidential data portion at the first location.
73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the step of determining the output data set further comprises the steps of:
defining a statistical model;
generating a statistical data set using the exchange data ~~set~~ and the statistical model, wherein the act of generating a statistical data set includes an act of generating at least one of average values for the exchange data and a range of values for the exchange data; and
storing the statistical data set as the output data set.
74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising the step of receiving a second ~~data~~ exchange data ~~portion~~ from a second user; updating the exchange data set using the second exchange data ~~portion~~; and transmitting the output data set to the second user.
75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the step of ~~providing for collection~~ collecting of information from a user further includes the steps of:
providing a graphical user interface including a webpage; and
providing for collection of information from the user location via the webpage displayed at the user location.
76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, further comprising the step of:

providing for access to the central controller via the webpage using a login routine, wherein the login routine determines whether a user is allowed to access the central controller.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein transmitting the output data set to the user is performed at the completion of the login routine.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of generating a graph from the output data set.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the step of providing for collection of information from a user location includes a step of collecting benchmark information.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein the benchmarking information is asset information.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the asset information includes public business valuation information.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the asset information includes private business valuation information.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the asset data information includes portfolio information.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the asset information includes capital structure information.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the benchmarking information is performance information.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of collecting public company commercial information from a published public exchange market.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the statistical averages include at least one of average deal statistics, average valuation statistics, average collateral statistics, average operating performance statistics, and average operating performance data.

88. (Currently Amended) A network business method for providing commercial statistical data via a network, comprising the steps of:

~~providing for collection~~ collecting of commercial data information via a webpage displayed on a computer at a first user location, wherein the commercial data information relates to a private company in an industry;

~~providing for generation~~ generating, by a computer system, of a commercial data record from the commercial data information, including a confidential subrecord that identifies the private company;

~~providing for generation~~ generating, by the a computer system, of an exchange subrecord from the commercial data information at the first user location, which is characterized by an absence of confidential identifying information for the private company, wherein the act of generating the exchange subrecord includes acts of:

associating classifications to the private company information based on the confidential subrecord;

defining a commercial statistical analysis system having an exchange data set on a computer system at a central location;

authenticating a first user;

receiving only the exchange subrecord via a computer network communication link to the commercial statistical analysis system, where the act of receiving occurs after authenticating the first user;

updating, by the computer system at the central location, ~~the~~ exchange data ~~set~~ using the exchange subrecord, wherein the exchange data includes information on assets and liabilities of the private company;

generating a commercial statistical data set for the industry using the commercial statistical analysis system on the computer system at the central location, wherein generating the commercial statistical data set includes generating the commercial statistical data set includes statistical averages for the industry, based on received exchange subrecord; and

transmitting the commercial statistical data set to the user location over a computer communication network;

wherein the commercial statistical data set is configured to protect an identity of the private company from other users with access to the commercial statistical data set.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein transmitting the commercial statistical data set from the commercial statistical analysis system to the user location is completed via the network communication link.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, further comprising storing the commercial statistical data set.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, further comprising storing the commercial statistical data set at the commercial statistical analysis system.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of providing for storage of the collected information at the location of the user.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of providing for storage of the confidential subrecord at the location of the user.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the step of generating the commercial statistical data set further comprises the steps of:

defining a statistical model; and

generating a commercial statistical data set using the exchange data set and the statistical model.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 94, further comprising the step of receiving a second exchange subrecord from a second user; and updating the exchange data set using the second exchange subrecord.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising the steps of:
providing for access to the commercial statistical analysis system via the web page using a login routine, wherein the login routine determines whether a user is allowed to access the commercial statistical analysis system.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein transmitting the commercial statistical data set to the user location is performed at the completion of the login routine.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of generating a graph from the commercial statistical data set.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the step of providing for collection of information from a user location includes the step of providing for collection of asset information.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 99, wherein the asset information includes public business valuation and other statistical information.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 99, wherein the asset information includes private business valuation and other statistical information.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of determining whether the user is a qualified user.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, further comprising the step of defining a qualified user exchange data set, wherein the qualified user exchange data set is allowed to be accessed only by the qualified user.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, further comprising the step of defining the exchange data set to include the qualified user exchange data set as a subset of the exchange data set.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, comprising the step of defining the network communication link to include an internet communication link.

106. (Currently Amended) A system for trading commercial information via a network, the system comprising:

a commercial information exchange system including an exchange system controller and an exchange data storage system;

wherein the commercial information exchange system is configured to receive an exchange subrecord from a user location via a computer network, after authenticating the user, which is characterized by an absence of confidential identifying information for a private company, which is further characterized by including classifications for the exchange subrecord based on the confidential identifying information, to update the exchange data set using the exchange subrecord, to generate a commercial statistical data set, and to transmit the commercial statistical data set to the user location via the computer network, and further wherein the exchange subrecord includes commercial information relating to a private company in an industry, and the statistical data set includes statistical averages for the industry, and wherein the commercial statistical data set is defined by a lack of information identifying a source of the exchange subrecord.

107. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 106, wherein a user is a qualified user, and the commercial statistical data set is accessible only by one or more qualified users.

108. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 106, further comprising:

a communication component configured to accept data from a first user interface located at a first location;

wherein the communication component is adapted to communicate with the first user interface, for accepting transmission of the exchange record from the first user interface and for transmitting the commercial statistical data set to the first user interface from the commercial information exchange system.

109. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 106, wherein the computer network includes the Internet.

110. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 106, wherein the exchange system controller further includes a web server.

111. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 106, wherein the exchange system controller further includes a query manager for managing queries between the user and the commercial information exchange system.

112. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 106, wherein the exchange system controller includes a statistical model, wherein the commercial statistical data set is generated using the exchange data set and the statistical model.

113. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for providing commercial statistical data via a network comprising:

~~providing for collection of~~ collecting commercial data information via a webpage from a first user location, the commercial data information being associated with a private company in an industry;

~~generating providing,~~ at the first user location, ~~for generation of a commercial data record~~ from the commercial data information, including a confidential subrecord that identifies the private company and an exchange subrecord which is characterized by an absence of confidential identifying information for the private company, wherein the act of generating the commercial data includes acts of:

associating classifications to the private company information based on the confidential subrecord;
~~— defining a commercial statistical analysis system having an exchange data set;~~
authenticating the first user;
receiving only the exchange subrecord via a network communication link to the commercial statistical analysis system, where the act of receiving occurs after authenticating the first user;
updating the exchange data set using the exchange subrecord;
generating a commercial statistical data set using ~~the~~ a commercial statistical analysis system, wherein the commercial statistical data set includes statistical averages for the industry;
and
transmitting the commercial statistical data set from the commercial statistical analysis system to the user location;
wherein the commercial statistical data set is configured to protect an identity of the private company from other users with access to the commercial statistical data set.

114. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 113, wherein transmitting the commercial statistical data set from the commercial statistical analysis system to the user is performed via the network communication link.

115. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 113, wherein the step of generating the commercial statistical data set further comprises:

defining a statistical model; and
generating a commercial statistical data set using the exchange data set and a statistical model.

116. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 113, further comprising the step of receiving a second exchange subrecord from a second user; and updating the exchange data set using the second exchange subrecord.

117. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 113, further comprising the step of:

providing for access to the commercial statistical analysis system via the webpage using a login routine, wherein the login routine determines whether a user is allowed to access the commercial statistical analysis system.

118. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 117, wherein transmitting the commercial statistical data set to the user location is performed at the completion of the login routing.

119. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 113, wherein the step of ~~providing for the collection of~~ collecting information from a user location includes the step of ~~providing for collection of~~ collecting private business valuation information.

120. (Currently Amended) A method for trading private company statistical data comprising: providing for collection of private company data information including business valuation and other statistical data via a webpage, displayed on a computer system at a first user location, from a user associated with the private company, wherein the private company is part of a commercial industry;

providing for generation of a private company data record from the private company data information, including a confidential subrecord, which includes confidential identifying information for the private company on a computer system at the first user location;~~and~~
providing for generation of an exchange subrecord, which is defined by an absence of confidential identifying information for the private company, wherein the act of providing for generation of the exchange subrecord includes acts of:

providing for generation of industrial classifications of the private company information based on the confidential identifying information;

providing for the association of the industrial classifications to the private company information;

providing for inclusion of the industrial classifications in the exchange subrecord;
providing for storage of the confidential subrecord at the location of the user;

defining, on a central computer system, a statistical analysis system having ~~an~~ exchange data ~~set~~ and at least one statistical model;

authenticating the first user;

receiving only the exchange subrecord at the statistical analysis system over a computer network, where the act of receiving occurs after authenticating the first user;

updating, by a processor, the exchange data ~~set~~ using the exchange subrecord;

storing the updated exchange data ~~set~~ to the statistical analysis system;

generating a private company statistical data ~~set~~ using the statistical analysis system based upon the updated exchange data ~~set~~ and the at least one statistical model, wherein the private company statistical data ~~set~~ includes statistical averages for the commercial industry, the statistical averages including at least one of average deal statistics, average valuation statistics, average collateral statistics, average operating performance statistics, and average operating performance data; and

transmitting, over the computer network, the private company statistical data ~~set~~ to one or more qualified users, wherein a qualified user is defined as a user who provides exchange subrecords to the statistical analysis system, and wherein the private company statistical data ~~set~~ is configured to protect an identity of the private company from other users with access to the private company statistical data ~~set~~, wherein the private company statistical data comprises statistical information sufficient to obtain a valuation of the private company, the valuation of the private company including at least an estimated market value of the private company, wherein the estimated market value incorporates evaluation of liabilities and assets of the private company.

121. (Cancelled)

122. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 88, wherein the exchange subrecord comprises statistical information sufficient to obtain a valuation of the private company.

123. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 106, wherein the commercial statistical data set enables another user to determine a valuation of the private company.

124. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 113, wherein the commercial statistical data set enables another user to determine a valuation of the private company.

125. (Cancelled)

126. (New) The method according to claim 61, further comprising an act of valuing the private company based on the output data.